

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND  
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
NUCLEAR SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Advisory Committee Charter**

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC).
2. **Authority.** This charter establishes the DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee under the authority of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Committee is being renewed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Director, Office of Science (DOE), and the Assistant Director, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Directorate (NSF), on determining the scientific priorities within the field of basic nuclear science research among the possible opportunities. Basic nuclear research is understood to encompass a variety of subfields of experimental and theoretical investigations involving the fundamental interactions, properties, and structures of atomic nuclei.

DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee activities will include assessment of and recommendations concerning:

- Objectives, directions and development, and future frontiers of basic nuclear science research;
  - adequacy of present facilities, and the need and relative priority for new facilities;
  - facility and instrument development programs needed to advance basic nuclear science research;
  - institutional balance of support for optimized scientific productivity and training of nuclear scientists;
  - relationships of basic nuclear science with other fields of science; and
  - validation of performance measures and criteria for the Department of Energy nuclear physics program.
4. **Description of Duties.** The duties of the Committee are solely advisory in nature.
  5. **Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee will report to the Director, Office of Science (DOE) and the Assistant Director, Mathematical & Physical Sciences Directorate (NSF).

6. **Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support.** The Department of Energy will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within the Department, primary support shall be furnished by the Office of Science.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The estimated annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee are approximately \$375,000; including one-half person–year.
8. **Designated Federal Officer (DFO).** A full-time or permanent part-time DOE employee, appointed in accordance with agency procedures, will serve as the DFO (or designee). The DFO (or designee) will approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittee's meetings, and prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, and adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee meets approximately three times a year, as necessary.
10. **Duration.** Continuing in nature.
11. **Termination.** The Committee terminates two years from the Charter filing date and may not meet if the Charter is not renewed biennially.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Committee will be comprised of approximately 20 members. Committee members shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Science and Energy (or designee) and the Director of the National Science Foundation. Members shall be experts in their respective fields and appointed as special Government employees, or representatives of entities including, among others, research facilities and academic institutions, should the Committee's task require such representation.

Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, each appointed non-Federal member may be reimbursed for authorized per diem and travel expenses incurred while attending Committee meetings, in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations.

13. **Subcommittees.** DOE and NSF have the authority to form subcommittees. The objectives of the subcommittee's are to make recommendations to the parent committee with respect to particular matters which are related to the responsibilities of the parent committee. Ad hoc members from outside the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee may be appointed, with DOE and NSF approval, to ensure that the knowledge necessary to conduct the various studies will be achieved.

Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advise to the full committee for full deliberation and discussion.

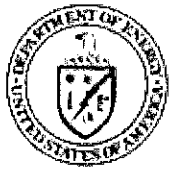
Subcommittees and workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee, nor can they report directly to the Department of Energy or National Science Foundation.

14. **Recordkeeping.** The records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with the General Records Schedule 6.2, Item 2 and DOE Administrative Records Schedule 16, Item 8b (1.1) and approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.
15. **Filing Date.**

Date filed with Congress: September 30, 2015

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica De Vos", written in a cursive style.

Erica De Vos  
Acting Committee Management Officer



U.S. Department of Energy  
and the  
National Science Foundation



**Memorandum of Understanding between**  
**the U.S. Department of Energy**  
**and**  
**the U.S. National Science Foundation**  
**concerning the**  
**Nuclear Science Advisory Committee**



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## **Preamble**

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have been effective partners in establishing and maintaining U.S. leadership in the international study of nuclear science. A goal for both agencies is to strengthen this partnership as the course of nuclear science advances in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The two agencies have shared the direction of the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) since its inception in 1977, with each agency taking responsibility for alternate two-year periods. However, the advent of the internet has made it more convenient for one agency, the DOE, to continuously maintain the NSAC website. Furthermore, for continuity it is preferable for the charter to remain with one agency. We thus agree that the charter and website remain with the DOE, together with the responsibilities for organization and meeting logistics. The lead responsibility for the direction of NSAC itself, selecting members, putting together meeting agendas and developing charges will continue to be shared by the two agencies.

While the agencies do have overlap in their areas of expertise, there are areas where each is especially strong. The DOE maintains its role of stewardship for the national Nuclear Physics (NP) program through its effective management of the National Laboratories, advancing research and development of technologies for future accelerators, and promoting technology transfer through public-private research partnerships. The NSF has a special role of connecting NP research to the public and other scientific disciplines through innovative outreach and crosscutting initiatives which exploit new technologies and emerging synergies between NP and other fields (such as Astrophysics or Computer and Information Science). Together, DOE and NSF will develop and diversify their shared role in nurturing the U.S. university program in nuclear physics experiment and theory. This program in turn produces the young scientists who will make the future breakthroughs and greatly enhance the scientific and technical workforce of the future so important to the health and welfare of our Nation.

From observations of stars, galaxies, and high-energy particles from space to experiments with man-made particle accelerators as well as investigating radioactive decay, the study of matter and energy and understanding their roles in shaping the universe has been one of the major scientific themes of the twentieth century. The 21st century promises many exciting new challenges, including understanding the substructure of the nucleon and nuclear matter; creating and characterizing the properties of hot, dense nuclear matter; investigating new regions of nuclear structure and determining the reactions that created the nuclei of the chemical elements inside stars and supernovae; and determining the essential properties of neutrinos and the underlying fundamental symmetries of nature. To develop our fundamental understanding of the universe requires new ideas, new people, and new tools. The DOE/NSF partnership in NP recognizes the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will meet them with renewed energy. The joint ownership of NSAC is an important element furthering the development of this important research frontier.

## **1. Introduction**

The NSAC has advised the Federal Government on the national program in experimental and theoretical nuclear science since its inception in 1977. The Committee is chartered by DOE and reports to the Director, Office of Science (DOE) and the Assistant Director, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (NSF), under the guidelines established by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, and its accompanying rules and regulations.

The Committee undertakes periodic reviews of the elements of the Nuclear Physics program; provides recommendations of desirable programmatic changes; and advises on long-range plans, priorities, and appropriate levels of funding for the nuclear physics research portfolio. The Committee formally reports to both agencies. This joint ownership of NSAC by the DOE and the NSF underscores the commitment of both agencies to work together to support continued U.S. leadership in this area of forefront research.

## **2. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding**

It is the purpose of this DOE/NSF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to define the relationship between the two agencies relative to NSAC. The MOU formalizes procedures for appointments of NSAC members and the Chairperson, charges from the agencies to NSAC for specific activities or studies and advice, and sets the form and channels for NSAC to report formally to the agencies.

## **3. Charter**

The DOE and NSF will jointly develop the charter for NSAC. The DOE will be responsible for periodically renewing the charter and ensuring that it conforms to the appropriate Federal regulations, with changes requiring joint agency concurrence.

## **4. Panel Membership and Appointments**

The DOE and NSF Program Offices will jointly recommend NSAC membership, including the Chair, following the protocols of their respective agencies. The DOE Under Secretary for Science and Energy (or designee) and the Director of the NSF will jointly appoint committee members, including the Chair. The term of membership will normally be up to three years. Members other than the Chair will normally not be reappointed. The Chair may be reappointed for additional terms.

## **5. Subcommittees**

The Committee is occasionally requested to address major issues in the national NP program or to formulate long-range plans for future research directions. To facilitate this function of the Committee, subcommittees may be formed. The objectives of the subcommittees are to make recommendations to the parent Committee on the particular matters relevant to their charge. After approval by NSAC, the subcommittee reports will be transmitted by NSAC to the DOE and the NSF.

Subcommittee membership will include individuals from the current NSAC membership as well as others.

#### **6. Charges to the Committee**

The DOE and the NSF will jointly develop charges to NSAC and its subcommittees. The charges are transmitted to NSAC jointly by the Director, Office of Science (DOE) and the Assistant Director, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (NSF). Either the DOE or NSF Program Office can initiate a request for NSAC to conduct studies and provide advice on the national nuclear science program. The formal charge to NSAC to conduct the study will be issued as described above.

#### **7. Reporting**

The Committee will report to the Director, Office of Science (DOE) and the Assistant Director, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (NSF). A primary form of reporting will be a letter from the Chairperson of NSAC following each of the formal meetings of the Committee. The NSAC Chairperson will convey special reports and studies from subcommittees to the above-named officials after appropriate action by NSAC. From time to time, the Chair of NSAC may also be requested to make reports to the Secretary of Energy, Under Secretary for Science and Energy, the Director of the Office of Science (DOE), the Director of the NSF, the National Science Board, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, other interested governmental organizations or Congress.

#### **8. Administration and FACA Requirements**

The administration of NSAC is an exception to strict joint ownership; DOE retains responsibility for all FACA requirements.

The Committee operates under DOE rules regarding implementation of the requirements imposed by FACA.



FACA legislation requires that each Federal advisory committee have a "Designated Federal Officer" (DFO) responsible for its operations. The DFO responsible for NSAC is the DOE Director of the Physics Research Division, Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science. The DFO may delegate authority in his/her absence, as appropriate. The DFO will ensure that NSAC meetings are announced in the Federal Register.

The DFO appoints the Executive Secretary for NSAC. In consultation with staffs of the DOE, the NSF, the NSAC Chair and others, the Executive Secretary, with the concurrence of the DFO, will set details of the meeting agenda. The Executive Secretary will keep minutes of the meetings.

General logistical support services for NSAC and its subcommittees will reside with the DOE, with additional support provided by the NSF as needed and as appropriate.

#### **9. Resolution of Disagreements**

Disagreements between the DOE and NSF staff related to NSAC issues, where concurrence cannot be resolved, will be transmitted to the Director, Office of Science (DOE) and the Assistant Director, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (NSF), for resolution.

#### **10. Amendment and Termination**

This MOU may be modified or amended by written agreement between DOE and NSF. This MOU may be terminated by mutual agreement, or by either party upon 90-day written notice to the other. Notices of amendment or termination will be signed by the Director, Office of Science (DOE) and the Assistant Director, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (NSF), as appropriate. In the event of termination or should any amendment modify a charter provision, DOE will prepare an amended charter and take any further action required by FACA.

## 11. Funding

This agreement does not create legal rights or obligations in either party, or obligate, commit, or transfer funds.


This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Nothing in this MOU authorizes or is intended to obligate the parties to expend, exchange, or reimburse funds, services, or supplies, or transfer or receive anything of value.

## 12. Additional Terms

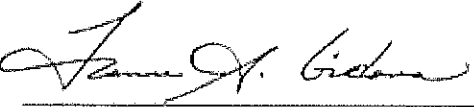
This MOU in no way restricts either of the parties from participating in any activity with other public or private agencies, organizations or individuals.

This MOU is not legally enforceable and shall not be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of either party. This MOU shall not be construed to provide a private right or cause of action for or by any person or entity.

This MOU is effective when signed by both agencies.

  
Franklin M. Orr, JR  
Under Secretary for Science and Energy

9/15/2015  
Date

  
France A. Córdova  
Director, National Science Foundation

9/16/2015  
Date